

## **Speech**

### **Grades 9-12 Skills List**

The writer of a competent speech demonstrates most or all of the following skills:

#### **PURPOSE/AUDIENCE**

- Shows an understanding of the audience's perspective
- Writes from the perspective of an informed speaker to a less-informed listener
- Focuses on the purpose (e.g., to entertain, to persuade, to inform, to demonstrate)
- Anticipates audience's reactions, questions, lack of understanding
- Uses appropriate tone for the event, audience, and purpose
- Makes it clear what the audience member should know, do, and/or believe as a result of hearing the speech

#### **IDEA DEVELOPMENT/SUPPORT**

- Develops ideas which are connected to the core content of the course in which the speech was written
- Uses appropriate strategies to develop ideas (e.g., statistics, stories, personal reflections, visual aids)
- Uses information from a variety of sources (when necessary)
- Clarifies and interprets ideas
- Uses persuasive technique (when necessary)
- Provides support which is accurate and thorough enough to achieve the purpose of the speech

#### **ORGANIZATION**

- Writes an engaging lead to get the audience's attention
- Introduces the points of the speech in the introduction
- Places ideas in a meaningful order
- Uses transitions between ideas
- Maintains coherence and unity
- Reviews the points of the speech in the conclusion
- May use visual aids (e.g., graphic organizer, power point presentation)

#### **SENTENCES**

- Presents complete sentences
- Varies structure of sentences without becoming overly complex

#### **LANGUAGE**

- Chooses language appropriate to the audience and purpose
- Uses specific language
- Maintains consistent verb tense
- Makes subjects and verbs agree
- Employs correct usage

#### CORRECTNESS

- Cites references and documents sources in an unobtrusive manner
- Spells correctly
- Uses correct end punctuation, commas, quotation marks, apostrophes
- Capitalizes correctly
- Makes few errors in correctness which do not interfere with the meaning of the piece

*It is important to keep in mind that speeches are meant to be heard by an intended audience. During the delivery of a speech, other skills such as facial expressions, eye contact, gestures, speed of speaking and volume would be necessary in order to successfully present the speech.*

As students move from grade to grade, they demonstrate growth in the control and complexity with which they use these skills.